MESA Milestones

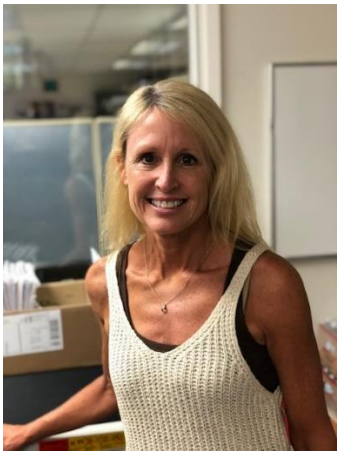
Featuring momentous affairs of the MESA program at Allan Hancock College

Fall 2020

NEW MESA/STEM Academic Success Center On Its Way!

by Christine Reed, MESA Counselor/Coordinator

It has been 10 years in the making, but the MESA/STEM students will soon get a new state-of-the-art Academic Success Center complete with a study center, learning laboratory, decompression lounge, reference library, and interactive classroom, doubling the current square footage for students. Coming March 2021, the new center will be located in between Building M and Building N, right off the math and science quad area. Its new location will be closer to partner programs such as the Math Center and the Mathematical Science, Engineering, Computer Science, Life and Physical Sciences Departments and faculty offices. We have been gearing up for the move since 2016, when we began increasing the number of students we serve through the MESA Program. In four years, we have increased the number of students participating in the MESA Program by 60%. We continue to offer STEM-specific counseling, tutorial services, lending library, workshops, scholarship assistance, and leadership/professional development opportunities and guidance for students. Your MESA/STEM staff are happy to hear from you and support all our STEM students' needs.
Staff include:



Christine Reed, MESA Counselor/Coordinator
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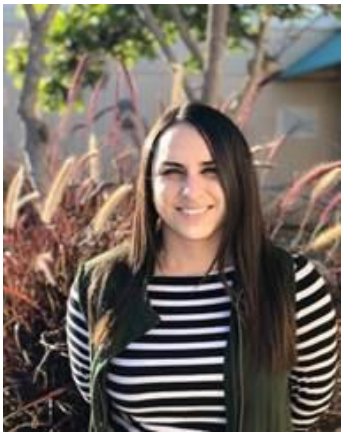
Phone: 805-922-6966 ext. 3348

Christine has been a counselor at Allan Hancock College since 1996. The first 13 years of her career, she was the University Transfer Center Counselor/Coordinator where she coordinated university transfer services for the college and served as the lead transfer counselor, serving AHC's transfer-directed student population. Since 2009, she has served as the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program Counselor/Coordinator in which she serves as the lead counselor for MESA and STEM students and coordinates the college's MESA program and grant funding. Additionally, she teaches Personal Development courses and STEM 100 – Academic Success Strategies for STEM students. Christine holds a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and a master's degree in education, counseling and guidance from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She enjoys living on the Central Coast, competing in triathlons locally and throughout the state, being a mother of twins, and supporting student success among the student body of Allan Hancock College.



Angelica Eulloqui, MESA/STEM Counselor
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Angelica has been a part-time counselor at Allan Hancock College since 2015. She has been serving as the STEM Counselor in the STEM Center. Prior to beginning her career as a counselor, she interned with the STEM and MESA Programs as a Career Mentor and Counseling Intern. She has developed a strong commitment and passion to supporting students succeed academically and go onto the 4-year university.
Angelica is a first-generation Hancock Alumni. She transferred to California State University, Northridge and earned a Bachelor degree in Sociology. She also holds a Master Degree in Education, Counseling and Guidance from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. During her free time, Angelica enjoys spending time with her family, visiting beaches, and hiking our local trails.

Dorine Mathieu, MESA Center Support Specialist
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Phone: 805-922-6966 ext. 3446

Dorine has worked at Allan Hancock College since early 2005. She began working in the Vice President of Student Services Office, as an assistant and then as a part-time Interim Student Activities Coordinator. In 2008, she began working for the MESA (Math, Engineering and Science Achievement) Program and additionally six years as the MESA Club advisor. She is also an alumnus of Allan Hancock College. As a first-generation college student herself, Dorine is passionate about encouraging and supporting students in pursuit of higher education.

Bryce Miyahara, STEM Learning Lab Coordinator
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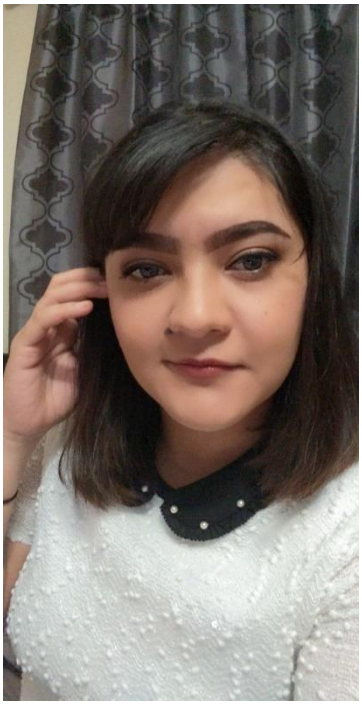
Bryce began working at Allan Hancock College at the start of 2020. He was born and raised in San Luis Obispo county, graduating from Arroyo Grande High School in 2014, and enrolling at Cuesta College as a Promise Scholarship student. He temporarily moved away from home to attend UC Davis, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. In pursuit of his degree, he had spent much of his study time in spaces similar to the STEM Learning Lab and the MESA Center.
While he enjoyed the years he spent in the Sacramento area, he never thought of it as "home." So he returned to the Central Coast, seeking to put his new degree to use in a STEM-based career. As the Coordinator for the STEM Learning Lab, he takes great joy in assisting the students and faculty that walk a very similar path to his own. Chemistry and Biology are his largest academic strengths when helping students; but he's also a huge fan of video games and anime, and will gladly discuss them with you when you need a study break.

The Reality Behind Chasing the American Dream

by Claudia Torres, MESA Student, Architectural Engineering



As a Mexican immigrant I dreamt of achieving the honest American dream by all means possible. Migrating to the United States at the tender age of ten, formed the most crucial years of my life. As my curious eyes absorbed all the differences between our countries, I could not help but to miss the place I once called home. Through the numerous differences, the language barrier was among one of the most difficult obstacles for me to overcome. With that, my parents enrolled me in English night classes on top of the demands of my regular schooling. Despite having to endure constant social pressures that come with being an immigrant, the language barrier impacted my academic life to the point where I was falling immensely behind the rest of my classmates. Given that my parents and siblings were also immigrants assimilating with me, I cried out of frustration for the help I direly needed and could not get. After several months of intense studying, my English night classes were gradually paying off, I was finally understanding the language but could not find the confidence to interact with others yet.

Following several years of conquering such obstacles, I enrolled at Allan Hancock College unsure of what path I wanted to follow. With my immigration status as a constant chip on my shoulder, I decided to power through my general education classes without knowing where my true passion lied. What exactly did I want to study? I had to make a quick and firm decision since financial aid did not cover me due to my immigrant status. Through personal research and a career aptitude test, I discovered my passion lead me towards Architecture Engineering. I was so ecstatic to finally have a focused goal I knew I could achieve with the right time and effort.

Presently, I am finishing up my last year at Allan Hancock College while surviving through these remote learning measures. I luckily found the love of my life who supports all my dreams and achievements, also, changing my immigration status. I've been fortunate enough to be accepted in the Honor's society which has led me to meet incredible people with similar goals to mine. My ultimate goal is to become the first person in my family to obtain a college degree and transfer to Cal Poly. As a first-generation college student, it has been increasingly difficult to navigate the pressures that come with attending college and wanting to transfer. However, with the help of the MESA program, I have gotten further than I had ever dreamed and pushed me to become a disciplined student. The social pressures of an immigrant can deteriorate one's mind in believing the American dream in unachievable. With change, hard work, discipline and the will to endure, I will continue to follow my dreams until they are a reality.

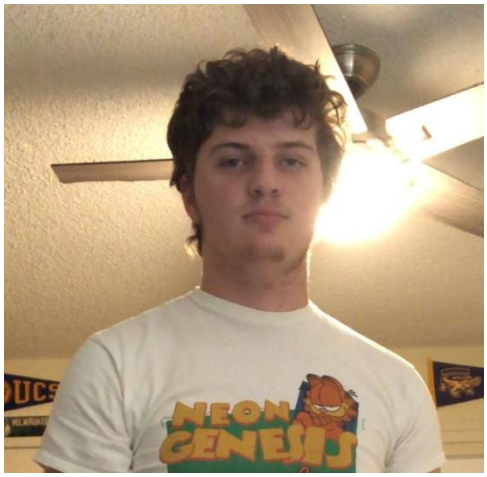
MESA/STEM Workshops provided to you via ZOOM!

by Angelica Eulloqui, MESA/STEM Counselor

Providing virtual workshops via the Zoom is highly convenient for our MESA/STEM students. Our students are managing busy schedules and with the flexibility of being able to connect from anywhere, students are able to attend workshops during lunch breaks, in their cars or at any other location. Virtual workshops allow more students to participate than ever before. The first MESA/STEM workshop of the semester was on focused on STEM Academic Strategies, 26 students were in attendance! During this workshop students had an interactive experience they were able share tips with their peers via the chat future and also by unmuting themselves. We had great dialogue and students left confident with strategies to facilitate their success. We are confident that proving workshops via zoom for the remainder of the year will be of great benefit! Please check out our calendar of events for more information about upcoming workshops!

Lost

by Nicholas Gottwald, MESA Student, Computer Science



As I began typing this, I was stuck deciding what direction I was actually going to take with this article. I didn't want to give any worn-out advice as I know I really don't have any wisdom or knowledge on what lies ahead for us community college students. I also did not feel the need to tell my life story because I doubt anyone has time or energy to read about any life stories right now, especially mine. That being said, when I was emailed to about giving an article to this newsletter I was stunned. I questioned whether or not I deserved this knowing how I was doing this semester. This writing did not have a specific prompt, and I was so used to working within the conditions and boundaries of prompts that I felt lost.

That seems to be the theme for most of my weekly proceedings; this feeling of being without direction in many aspects of life. Before this pandemic, I pretty much had a weekly schedule that revolved around that of my parents. I would work me most on weekdays and then gasp for air on the weekends. It was something to look forward to. In many instances, my parents would take me to a sit-down restaurant or bowling, and I went every time. The reason for this being my antisocial tendencies and lack of communication skills.

I changed my schedule this semester in an attempt to conserve study time and achieve the best grades I possibly could. That is when I made my melancholic revelation; the structure I had beforehand was not self-created and I really had no direction or control of the life I had nor the one I have now. I seem to be flailing around hoping I can get enough study time within the colored blocks on my google spreadsheet study schedule. Point being, I feel lost in the sense that I cannot find meaning beyond college. This may just be teenage angst, so take this with a grain of salt. I just hope you do not find yourself or have found yourself in even a remotely similar situation as mine.

ENROLL IN STEM 100

Success Strategies in STEM

- Learn about career options in STEM
- Develop effective learning strategies in STEM
- Plan academically using college resources
- Network within the STEM discipline

What MESA/STEM Tutoring and Study Groups Can do for You!

by Bryce Miyahara, Coordinator, STEM Learning Laboratory

Welcome back to another semester at AHC! Some things have changed since we've gone remote, but your studies are still as important as ever, and the MESA/STEM team is still here to help you on your journey to academic success!

Our specialized STEM-course tutoring is being handled online over Zoom this semester. These are DROP-IN tutoring hours (just like they were before we went remote), where you are free to log on between the hours of 9:00am – 6:00pm Monday through Friday and get help from one of our tutors, no appointment or hassle necessary.

Interested in group study, but worried about how you can coordinate a get-together during the pandemic? We've got you covered with our weekly Organized Study Groups and Review Sessions that are now also being handled over Zoom. Each Study Group and Review Session is dedicated to a single STEM course and is facilitated by one of our MESA/STEM tutors. These are a great resource if you want to connect with others in the same class period as you, while you put your heads together to tackle problems and topics. Each of the Study Groups and Review Sessions we provide only last 60

minutes each week, but that doesn't mean the group study has to end there! Connect with the students that attend these sessions with you and see if you can form your own virtual study groups with them if you need extra time.

In any case, you should try to make use of *both* the online tutoring *and* the online study groups as often as you can, so that you can continue to exercise those STEM brain muscles! Please see the MESA/STEM tutoring and group study schedules on our webpage at: https://www.hancockcollege.edu/mesa/aew-tutoring-schedules.php

Each schedule contains the Zoom meeting links necessary to connect to our tutors, as well as the Organizes Study Groups and Review Sessions, so be sure to check it out! If you have any questions about the schedules or anything else regarding STEM tutoring, please reach out to the STEM Learning Lab Coordinator at: bryce.miyahara@hancockcollege.edu

Managing Big Assignments

Source: https://www.universitysurvival.com/student-topics/managing-big-assignments/

No matter what your major, you will need to manage a big project at some point in your career. You'll even need to do this in your personal life (think wedding or home move). The process you use for doing a project also applies to major assignments such as a research paper or a major project.

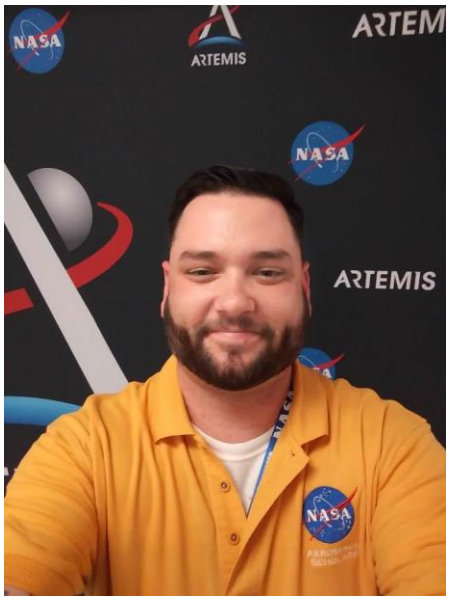
Here's a way to manage a big assignment.

Step One –	Make a list of all of the activities needed to do the assignment. These should be activities that will take about one hour to do. Exhibit One shows what the task list might look like for preparing a research paper.
Step Two –	Assign target dates to each task on the list. Several tasks may share a same target date, but be realistic.
Step Three-	As you work on the assignment, check off tasks as they are completed. There is a sense of accomplishment when you do this.
Step Four-	Make a comment with each task as a reminder of something you may need to revisit. For example, you might make a note of an additional topic you might want to include in your paper.
Step Five-	Should you fall behind, revise your target dates. This may require doubling up on some tasks in order to complete your project.
Step Six –	After the project is done, write out the lessons you learned about managing a big assignment. You'll find these lessons learned to be valuable as you undertake your next biggest assignment.

One other thing that works is to post your schedule in a place where you see it every day. This practice will keep the assignment in your consciousness.

A Brief Lesson in Tenacity

by Allen L. Harrell III, MESA Student, Aerospace Engineering



I will never forget the moment I decided that I was going to pursue a career in Engineering. I had been out of school for close to fifteen years and had established a resume spanning a wide array of jobs. I was unemployed and wondering to myself what my next job should be. It was that moment that I decided I am going to be an engineer. I knew at the time that it was a rather lofty goal for a guy to pursue on a whim, considering I had no high school education and only enough mathematic experience to balance a checkbook, sometimes even successfully. However, like most other pursuits in my life I had tunnel vision and was going to make it happen.

As a non-traditional student I knew that there were going to be obstacles. Life happens. Sometimes it happens hard and fast. There have been countless times in the last three years that I legitimately contemplated if the ends justified the means. I pondered on thoughts such as, "Maybe I should get a job and scrap this whole plan". However, these thoughts were never strong enough to deter me. This tenacious mindset has allowed me to prove to myself that I am far more capable than I would have ever thought possible. For example, in 2016 I was crawling underneath trucks swapping out transmissions with no clear direction in life. Fast forward to 2020 and I am halfway to a degree in Aerospace Engineering and completed a nationwide academic program that landed me at NASA Ames Research Center. Thus, giving me the opportunity to make small talk with, and pass my resume on to, actual NASA scientists. As cliché as it may sound, I am walking proof that with enough determination, unwavering discipline, and a little grit anything is possible.

As much as I would like to stand up and take full credit for everything that I have achieved here at Hancock, I simply cannot. I would not have accomplished half as much without the support of the MESA team and all that they have provided me. Not only was I given unique opportunities as a direct result of the program, they instilled a sense of accountability and a hunger to push myself beyond my abilities. They have taught me to put my best foot forward and keep taking steps, no matter how small they may seem. In hindsight, these steps are the makings of an incredible journey that I could not be more thankful for.

As I wrap up my last year at Allan Hancock College and go on to acquire a degree in Aerospace Engineering, I move forward knowing that because of the community at MESA, I am now equipped with the tools needed to make my dream a reality. I cannot thank Christine and Dorine enough for all that they have done and continue to do.

Don't delay! Now is the time to invest your time and energy into securing 2021/2022 scholarships and summer 2021 internships! See the links below and learn about securing scholarships and internships – two invaluable components of a STEM education.

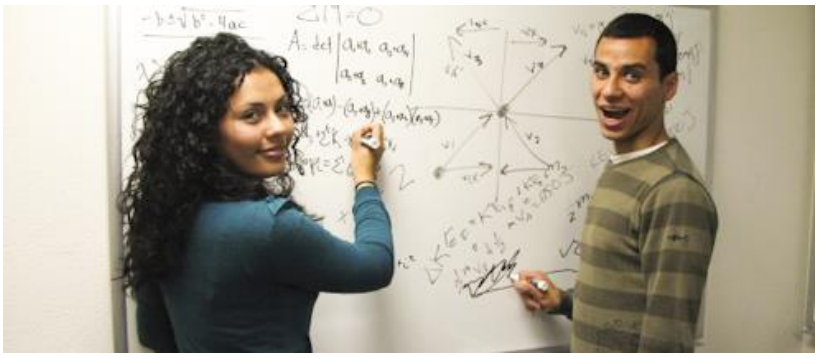
https://www.hancockcollege.edu/mesa/Scholarship.php
https://www.hancockcollege.edu/mesa/MESAinters.php

The only thing standing between you and scholarships/internships is your effort to make it happen. If you need help, see your MESA/STEM Centers for assistance. Make it happen for yourself. You will never regret it!

Fall 2020 MESA/STEM Activities

Aug. 28 - "Start Here" MESA Program Convocation—mandatory for all MESA students (1:30pm-3:00pm; Zoom)
Sept. 11 - STEM Academic Strategies: Setting Yourself Up for Success (1:00pm-2:30pm; Zoom)
Sept. 14-18 - University of California Week—for more information, contact the AHC University Transfer Center at AHCUTC@hancockcollege.edu
Sept. 21-25 - Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities Week—for more information, contact the AHC University Transfer Center at AHCUTC@hancockcollege.edu
Sept. 25 - UC Admission Application Personal Insight Question Workshop (1:00pm-2:00pm; Zoom)
Oct. 1 - FAFSA Application for 2021-2022 opens on Oct. 1, 2020!
Oct. 5-9 - California State University Week —for more information, contact the AHC University Transfer Center at AHCUTC@hancockcollege.edu
Oct. 9 - Scholarship Strategies for STEM Students (1:00pm-2:00pm; Zoom)
Oct. 23 - UC Admission Application Personal Insight Question Workshop (1:00pm-2:00pm; Zoom)
Nov. 20 - SB Foundation Scholarship and FAFSA workshop (1:30pm-3:00pm; Zoom)
Dec. 4 - Internship Strategies Workshop (1:00pm-2:00pm; Zoom)

UC/CSU Application Workshops - APPLICATIONS DUE NOVEMBER 30, 2020
Oct. 2 - UC/CSU Application Workshop (1:00pm-3:00pm; Zoom)
Oct. 16 - UC/CSU Application Workshop (1:00pm-3:00pm; Zoom)
Oct. 30 - UC/CSU Application Workshop (1:00pm-3:00pm; Zoom)
Nov. 13 - UC/CSU Application Workshop (1:00pm-3:00pm; Zoom



The Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program is an academic program that provides a wide range of support services and activities aimed at fostering student achievement and increasing the success and participation they experience while pursuing a degree in mathematics, engineering, computer science, biology, architecture, kinesiology, or other science-based programs. MESA enables students to prepare for and graduate from a four-year university with a math-based degree. It also seeks to increase the diverse pool of transfer-ready community college students who are prepared to excel as math, engineering and science majors. Through the program, students develop academic and leadership skills, increase educational performance, and gain confidence in their abilities to compete academically and professionally.

Visit our website at www.hancockcollege.edu; click on MESA under Quick Links

MESA 50 YEARS

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